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Agenda item 162

Observer status for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in the General Assembly

Report of the Sixth Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Anna **Sotaniemi** (Finland)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Observer status for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in the General Assembly" was included in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly at the request of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

2. At its 46th plenary meeting, on 29 October 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.

3. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 19th and 21st meetings, on 3 and 5 November 2004. The views of the representatives who spoke during the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.6/59/SR.19 and 21).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it a letter dated 12 October 2004 from the representatives of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/59/234).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.6/59/L.21

5. At the 19th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Observer status for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in the General Assembly" (A/C.6/59/L.21).

6. At its 21st meeting, on 5 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/59/L.21 without a vote (see para. 7).

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III. Recommendation of the Sixth Committee

7. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Observer status for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation,

1. *Decides* to invite the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.